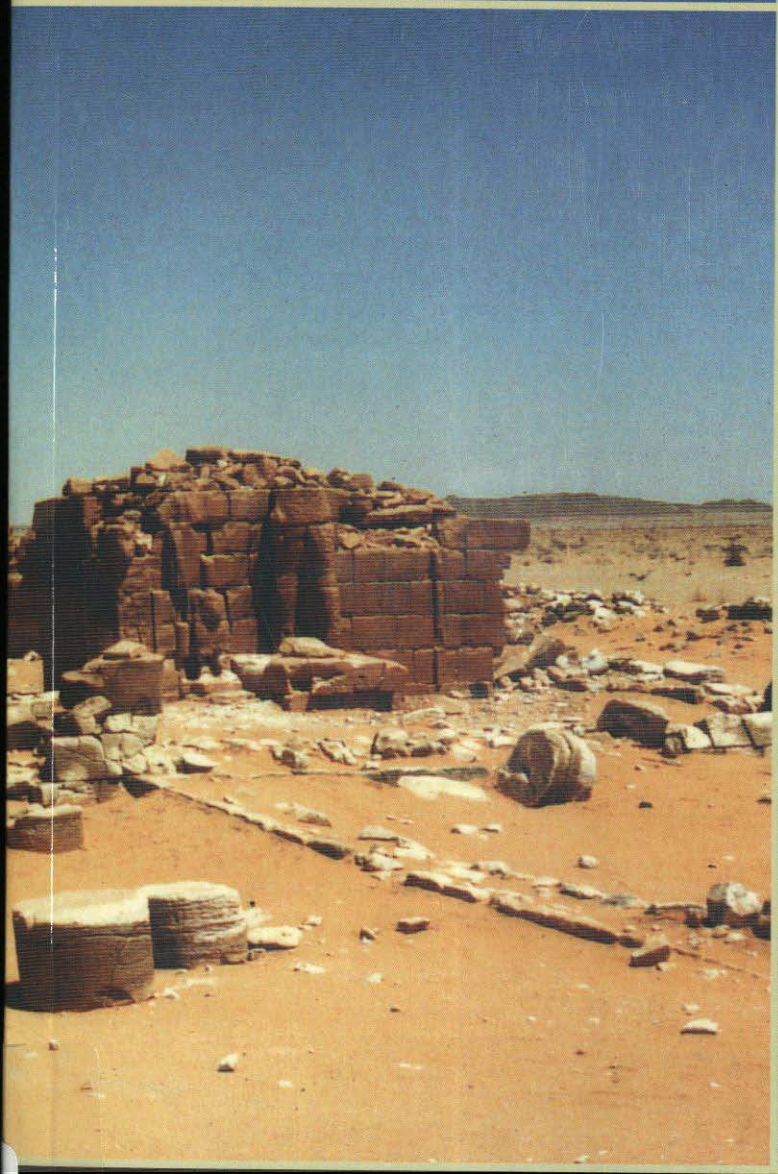
THE A TO Z OF ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL NUBIA



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Dr. Richard A. Lobban, Jr.

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To the reclamation and preservation of the peoples, cultures, and histories of ancient and medieval Nubia and to the illumination of its present.

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Editor's Foreword

There is an unfortunate tendency to rank ancient civilizations as a function of the abundance and impressiveness of their remains. This is understandable, since there is a direct appeal to the eye and vicarious visits can be arranged. But the shortage of remains does not in any way detract from the glory or greatness of a bygone civilization. This applies directly to Ancient Nubia, little of which has been recovered and, sadly, may never be recovered as it is now hidden under a vast lake. This is particularly regrettable since Nubia is a link among the ancient civilizations in a part of the world where it had long been assumed that little could be found, an assumption that is finally being discarded. This is indeed a great civilization in Black Africa, often subject to Ancient Egypt, but occasionally ruling it. And it was succeeded by various states and entities in later periods that are also of lasting interest.

The A to Z of Ancient and Medieval Nubia is a welcome contribution to our knowledge of that part of the world, all the more significant in that our knowledge is still so sketchy. It begins with prehistoric times, emphasizes the dynastic period, continues on to the Kushitic and Meroitic eras, and concludes with a millennium of Christian Nubia. This long progression is first traced in the chronology. It is then described more amply in the introduction. It is the dictionary section that goes into greater detail on the more notable polities, the more eminent rulers, the numerous conflicts and battles, and salient aspects of the societies, economies, and cultures. For those who want to learn more, and they will not be lacking, the bibliography presents portions of the existing literature and points readers to more specialized sources.

This volume was written by Richard A. Lobban Jr., professor of anthropology, who also served as the director of the Program of African and Afro-American Studies at Rhode Island College. He has long been interested in Nubia since his doctoral field research on the Nubians in

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INTRODUCTION

A wide variety of information on ancient Nubia is available to English-language readers. Given the close intersection between ancient Nubia and ancient Egypt, a huge Egyptological and archaeological literature exists with valuable works in various European languages describing and